



**Department of Energy**  
Idaho Operations Office  
850 Energy Drive  
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401-1563

January 26, 2004

Daryl F. Koch, Acting Remediation Manager  
Waste Management and Remediation Division  
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
1410 North Hilton  
Boise, Idaho 83706-1255

Nicholas Ceto, INEEL Project Manager  
Environmental Protection Agency Region 10  
712 Swift Blvd., Suite 5  
Richland, WA 99352

SUBJECT: Commencement of Waste Retrieval at the Glovebox Excavator Method (GEM)  
Project – (EM-ER-04-004)

Dear Mr. Koch and Mr. Ceto:

Paragraph 3.1.6 of the April 2002 *Agreement to Resolve Disputes* (ARD) requires waste retrieval operations at GEM to commence by March 31, 2004. The ARD defines commencement of operations as, "... substantial continuous onsite physical waste retrieval and packaging operations." This milestone was achieved January 26, 2004 when the first bucket of contaminated waste was retrieved, placed into the glovebox, sorted, and packaged into drums. Shift crews will continue to work 24 hours per day and 7 days per week until at least 75 cubic yards of waste zone material have been retrieved. Per paragraph 3.4.4.B.i. of the ARD, this letter requests authorization for release of the \$2M in DOE funds currently held in reserve. This \$2 million of the \$4 million held in reserve will be returned to the operational budget to fund work related to retrieval projects in the Subsurface Disposal Area, upon authorization by the state of Idaho and the Environmental Protection Agency.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 208-526-5920.

Sincerely,

Jeff Snook, Manager  
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